

TOWN OF PITKIN

SPECIAL MEETING at the Newcomb Community Center

January 22nd at 7pm

MINUTES

Full and timely notice of this meeting was provided pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(2)(c).

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call:** Mayor Rachel New called the meeting to order at 7:02p.m. Trustees Angela Huckaby, John Rowan, Suzy Metzler, Cory Nasso, Brad Wick, and Steve Pinkston were present. Attorney Jim McDonald was present. Minutes taken by Clerk Sara Gibb.

2. **For Council Action/Discussion:**

- Discuss and vote on letter to Met Rec in support of continued funding for over-air t.v.

A letter of support to the Metropolitan Recreation District was read aloud by Clerk Sara Gibb. Some edits were suggested by the Board, including omitting the final paragraph, which is not in line with the purpose of the letter.

Motion to approve the letter as amended made by Trustee Suzy Metzler. Seconded by Trustee Brad Wick. Motion carried 6-0.

Public comments: Chris Nasso, Lois Sharpton

- Discuss and vote on “charging document” for OWTS inspection criteria committee

Motion to go forward with the charging document as presented made by Trustee Steve Pinkston. Seconded by Trustee Angela Huckaby. Motion carried 6-0.

Mayor Rachel New suggested adding a date to the document by which the committee should report back to the Board. She also suggested including local engineers in the process.

- Discuss enforcement in the Town of Pitkin

Mayor Rachel New requested board consensus for four procedural rules for tonight’s discussion:

1. Listen actively.
2. Speak succinctly (there will be no lengthy comments from Board members or constituents)
3. Do not interrupt; the Mayor will give and take the floor. If there are issues with this, there will be a recess.
4. Be civil.

5. Pay special attention to focusing on the problem and not the people.

Mayor Rachel New stated that there are resources available, some include outlines on how to move from an area of little to no enforcement to one of increased enforcement.

Mayor Rachel New asked if the enforcement issue can be clearly defined. She also requested that the Board strive end up with specific goals and objectives.

Trustee Angela Huckaby stated that when she thinks of someone in the enforcement role in Town, she envisions perhaps a team of 4-6 people. This would allow for a team approach and shared responsibility. Trustee Cory Nasso stated that having a team of people may help keep everyone more levelheaded and would provide a point of contact for expressing concerns or filing a complaint.

Trustee Cory Nasso stated that there are many ordinances that the Town of Pitkin does not enforce.

Trustee Suzy Metzler thinks that the current complaint procedure would not work for things that need to be handled immediately.

Trustee Brad Wick stated that one of the issues in Town is speeding. He does not think the team approach would adequately address speeding or other vehicle violations.

Trustee Suzy Metzler wondered if there might be an app that could video speeders and calculate their speed. Trustee Steve Pinkston stated that speeding tickets likely require a genuine radar device and someone running the device who is trained.

Trustee John Rowan stated that in his experience, issues can be easily handled with a conversation.

Trustee Brad Wick stated that he believes it's the Town's responsibility to enforce its own speed limits. He does believe the county may assist with underage driving violations.

Trustee Suzy Metzler suggested speaking with the new Gunnison County sheriff about assistance with enforcement.

Mayor Rachel New asked the Board to define the enforcement problem. She listed the ordinances that have some sort of enforcement. The short-term rental issue was the initial question that led to tonight's discussion. What kind of enforcement policy should

the Town have? What are the results of enforcement of only certain ordinances? The Town needs to define what it must do to become a community that enforces its ordinances.

Trustee Brad Wick suggested a constable or someone who can be educated on what the Town is enforcing. It would then be that individual's or team's duty to go and enforce it. Trustee John Rowan suggested parking a police vehicle in town or getting an off-duty sheriff's deputy to come and patrol.

Mayor New encouraged the Board to complete an internet search for information on how to move toward a community that enforces its ordinances. She stated that it is important to move the community toward enforcement in a cohesive manner. One suggestion is to conduct a plan review and determine how the ordinances are upholding the long-term goals of the community. When the constituency is working toward a shared goal, enforcement becomes a common goal to protect whatever the community has identified. She stated that small-town enforcement very commonly utilizes citizen reporting.

It is important to close the loops in the zoning code, so that it is not selectively enforced.

Trustee Cory Nasso stated that the Town has not decided what it is going to enforce. He also stated that the same group cannot enforce both speeding issues and code enforcement. He does not want Pitkin to become like an HOA where citizens live in fear of small code infractions. He pointed out that the minimum driving age for ATVs in the national forest is 10 years. He asked why the Town of Pitkin doesn't match that age requirement.

Attorney Jim McDonald stated that there is no confidence in the history of enforcement in this community or in the Town Board to enforce its ordinances. Someone neutral must serve in enforcement. He stated that the two "no" votes on tax increases indicate that the constituents do not want increased government. He stated that having citizens enforce may cause safety issues.

Trustee Brad Wick thinks the goal of enforcement should be the development of respect for the Town and its citizens.

Trustee Suzy Metzler read a comment from an anonymous citizen.

Trustee Steve Pinkston stated that an enforcement team for zoning would be feasible. When Pitkin previously considered hiring a traffic officer for traffic violations, it was very expensive.

Mayor New supports the idea of a visioning meeting and strongly encourages the council and constituents to consider Town's vision and values. She would like to see increased trust.

Trustee Suzy Metzler would like someone to reach out to the Sheriff's office. Mayor New will do this. She would like to explore more about the idea of a committee that would become a committee for enforcing zoning issues.

Trustee Brad Wick wants the Board to commit to the will to enforce. Trustee Steve Pinkston would like to see if the Town can get a court set up. He would like the Town to line up a judge.

Trustee Cory Nasso pointed out that the Town needs to define what it's going to enforce.

Trustee Suzy Metzler stated that going through the ordinances will take many meetings. She wants to put things into place and then look at the ordinances. Mayor New stated the Town can look into the method and policies and procedures of enforcement.

Trustee Angela Huckaby suggested a committee to review the ordinances. Mayor New stated that the nuisance ordinance and dangerous animal ordinance would be easily revised by the Board. The main issues are the Zoning code and the OWTS ordinance which are not enforced.

Trustee Suzy Metzler would like the Town Board to direct the Zoning Board to work on the code more frequently than once per month. She would like them to meet every week for the next several months because it's easier during the winter when there are fewer people here and meeting attendance is lower. Trustee Cory Nasso stated that he does not believe it's responsible for a Board member to advocate that the Zoning Board revise the zoning code during the winter months when few property owners are available to provide comments.

Trustee Brad Wick would like the Town to consider its financial constraints. His concern about visioning meetings is that finances are often not considered.

Trustee Cory Nasso stated that the Town must decide what it's going to enforce based on what the Town values. The Town should enforce the things that preserve the aspects of the Town that are most important to its citizens.

Trustee Suzy Metzler asked if someone from DOLA needs to come and define the most important things. Can the public be asked? Is a two-three hour session with big white pieces of paper needed? She stated this was a big much for her and she doesn't see how it is applicable to Pitkin.

Mayor New stated that the purpose of a counsel is to think long-term. When the Board makes small, short-term goals to accomplish in six months, they are not serving the long-term goal. The idea is to have a collective vision of progress that is bigger than this Board. That is worked toward by each incoming Board, that all ordinances and resolutions are compared against for their effectiveness. Right now, the Board is reacting and creating ordinances and resolutions rather than looking at a collective picture of quality that we want and determining if each ordinance would help us achieve that goal. The Board needs to look at policies and resolutions that protect and facilitate that picture of quality. That's the concept. We can have smaller project-based goals that do not require a facilitator, but if we are not going to commit to the long-term thinking...The Board should be putting into action ideas that new Boards can build on, not undo. We have the opportunity to put together the first ever community visioning. Without community visioning, we will never recognize fully where we are on the same page so we can enforce and govern with confidence. The collective purpose will prevent arbitrary imposition of rules and regulations.

Trustee Brad Wick stated that he does not want to spend a lot of time on a strategic plan. He wants to decide if the Town has the will to enforce. He says the issue with the Town is all the people who show up in the summer and bring all the ATVs and disrupt traffic and the way STRs aggravate this problem. He wants to know how to handle this problem, which he thinks fits the long-term vision of Pitkin. He would like to focus on tactics rather than vision.

Trustee Metzler volunteered to work with Trustee Huckaby and determine what is important or not important in each of the ordinances requiring enforcement. Mayor New stated this activity should be for the entire Board. Trustee Suzy Metzler doesn't think the Board has time to look at a great big long-term vision because there are more immediate problems. She states the whole time she was on the Board it was a reactive board but that's what it needed to be. She knows the Town never had a long-term vision. Her long-term vision is to keep living here. That's what other people think, too. and that's more important than coming up with a long-term vision.

Mayor New will look into options for a judge

Focus on dangerous animal ordinance and nuisance ordinance for Feb meeting

Trustee Metzler wants to zoning board to meet more often than once per month.

Public comments: John Wise, Jerra Garetson, Tom Gibb, Gayla Gibb, Patrice Boyd, Cyndi Wick, Jesse Garetson, Kandy Nasso, Ramon Reed, Mark Hughes, Sara Gibb, Chris Nasso

3. Dismiss: Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm

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